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Early registration deadline for history conference near

PIERRE, S.D. -- The early registration deadline for this year's annual history conference of the South Dakota State Historical Society is Friday, March 23.

Sports and recreation have strong traditions in South Dakota, and those two topics will be examined during "Playing on the Plains," this year's conference theme, April 13-14 at the Ramkota in Pierre.

Among the featured speakers are Gov. Dennis Daugaard; John Cooper, former secretary of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks; and nationally-known sports journalist Mel Antonen.

You don't have to be a member of the State Historical Society to attend the conference, although society members receive a discount. Twelve continuing education contact hours are being offered towards a teacher certificate renewal credit. For more information, visit history.sd.gov or call (605) 773-6000.

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The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council, and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.